

Appln. No. 10/067,719
Amendment dated October 22, 2003
Reply to the Office Action of August 25, 2003.

REMARKS

Claims 1- 8 and 10 - 23 are pending in this application. Claims 1 - 5, 8 - 19 and 24 - 28 are rejected. Claims 20 - 23 are allowed. Claims 6 - 7 are deemed to be allowable if rewritten. Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, and 12 - 14 are amended herein. Claims 9 and 24-28 are canceled.

The Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract is objected to for containing more than 150 words. An amended abstract is appended hereto as a separate sheet.

The Rejection of the Claims

1. Claims 24 - 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,777,006 (hereinafter, "Rundell et al.").

These claims are canceled.

2. Claims 24 - 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 435,625 (hereinafter, "Kuehl et al.").

These claims are canceled.

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3. Claims 1 - 5, 8 - 19, and 24 - 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,004,572 (hereinafter, "Murrell et al.").

The Office Action states:

The impregnating liquid of Murrell et al. contains the directing agent in an amount of 35 wt% tetraethylammonium hydroxide (Examples 1-5), 35 wt% tetrapropylammonium hydroxide (Example 6), 40 wt% tetrapropylammonium hydroxide (Examples 7 and 8) or 20% NaOH solution (Examples 9 and 10). "20 wt% is deemed to anticipate the range "about 21 to about 60% by weight" in view of the latitude in interpreting the word "about" in claims.

Claim 1 is amended herein to recite that the micropore-forming directing agent is inorganic and provides hydroxide ions, and that the concentration of the micropore-forming directing agent in the liquid solution ranges from 25% to about 60% by weight, the term "about" being removed. Claim 9 is canceled in accordance with this amendment as its recitations are now substantially incorporated into claim 1. Conforming amendments are made to claims 10 and 12 - 14. Claim 13 is additionally amended with respect to the concentration range of the micropore-forming directing agent. Claims 24 to 28 are canceled.

Murrell et al. does not disclose or suggest an inorganic micropore-forming directing agent with a concentration of above 20% by weight, and does not disclose or suggest the range of 25% to about 60% as set forth in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 as amended and all claims depending therefrom are submitted to be allowable over Murrell et al.

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Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 - 5, 8 - 19, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

The Amendments to claims 6 and 7

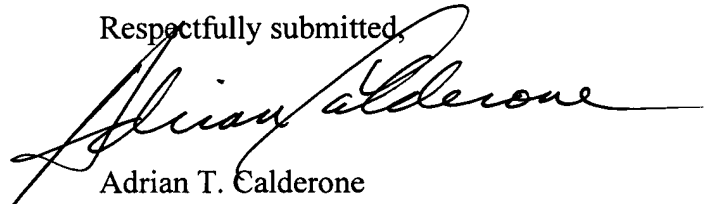
Claims 6 and 7 are deemed to be allowable if rewritten. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form and substantially incorporates the recitations of claim 1. Claim 7 is amended to depend from claim 6.

Allowance of claims 20 - 23 is gratefully acknowledged.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated above, all of the pending claims are submitted to be patentable and in condition for allowance, the same being respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Adrian T. Calderone
Registration No. 31,746
Attorney for Applicant(s)

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP.
333 Earle Ovington Boulevard
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-8484
Fax: (516) 228-8516